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April 1, 1991

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Tony Gallegos, Reclamation Engineer; and
Holland Shepherd, Reclamation Specialist

adg HOS

RE: Site Inspection, Moab Salt, Inc., Cane Creek Potash Mine, M/019/005,
Grand County, Utah

Inspection Date: March 22, 1991

Inspection Time: 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Conditions: Clear, Fair

Participants: Tony Gallegos, Holland Shepherd, DOGM; Sal Venticinque, BLM;
Eric York, Moab Salt, Inc.

The last site inspection of this site was 4/28/89. The purpose of this inspection was to familiarize new regulatory personnel with the operation and review the current operating status.

Mr. York first conducted a general tour of the salt lake, the dam for the lake, the sewage lagoon and pipeline system. We also viewed the main injection well and one of the two recovery wells. Mr. York pointed out the reduction in the old salt tailings area due to their rinsing program. Plans are to continue rinsing the salt tailings area in order to recover material from them and as a first step in reclaiming the area beneath the tailings.

We then visited the evaporation ponds. Mr. York explained their evaporation system and the mechanism and mitigation for leaks in the ponds. The ponds are lined with a HDPE liner (@30 mil) on the bottoms and a Hypalon liner (@60 mil) on the areas exposed to sunlight. Occasionally the liner is damaged by equipment during the removal of the salts. The damages are repaired immediately after removal is complete, although this was not the policy in the past. A network of collection sumps, pumps and pipelines is used to prevent the salt solutions, which have leaked out, from reaching the Colorado River. Mr. York pointed out an area where they will begin testing their soil desalinization process sometime in the near future.

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We then visited the #3 Canyon site where recent improvements had been made to the groundwater and surface runoff canyon collection system. Mr. York explained that a french drain system had been installed down to bedrock (@ 40 feet). This dam type structure also includes collection cisterns with a system of pumps which can pump the saline solutions back to a collection pond. Vegetation between the dam location and the riverbank had recently been removed and the area regraded (@ 2 acre area). Mr. York indicated that the majority of the vegetation which had been removed was dead, probably due to the infiltration of saline solutions. The plan is to revegetate this area with more salt tolerant plants and to prevent future saline contamination of this area. Several suggestions for reseeding this area were made by the Division.

jb
cc: Loren Morton, BWPC
Eric York, Moab Salt, Inc.
Wayne Hedberg, DOGM
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